



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE

Monday, April 6, 2009

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Water Quality Board OKs Stimulus Money for Sewer Projects

St. George, Utah – Several wastewater projects will move forward as part of \$20 million in low-interest loans and grants made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Water Quality Board, meeting in St. George last week, authorized funding for several much-needed wastewater projects that met the criteria for federal stimulus funding. (Fifty-percent of the funds needed to be allocated in the form of grants and 20 percent used for “green” projects.)

The applications the Board received were for projects totaling \$333 million. A priority was given to communities in need to upgrade sewer facilities to meet current residential needs, as opposed to planning for future growth.

“There is such an overwhelming need so the decision was difficult. The Board, however, did a good job of prioritizing by placing the projects into three different tiers based on need,” said Walt Baker, director of the Division of Water Quality. “Tier 1 projects were guaranteed ARRA funds. The other tiers are the backup projects should the Tier 1 projects not meet federal deadlines for the use of the funds.”

The following projects the Board gave priority are:

- Duchesne, \$1.2 million loan for the rehabilitation and replacement of sewer pipes and a pump station to prevent sewage from entering into the Duchesne River;
- Stockton, \$10.7 million loan and grant for the construction of a new collection system and treatment facility to replace septic tanks;
- Salt Lake City, \$6.9 million to replace the covers on existing bio-solids digesters to recover energy and improve safety;
- Orem City, \$11.9 million to upgrade the city’s wastewater treatment plant to enhance the removal of nutrients, improve energy efficiency and provide Class A bio-solids that can be beneficially used by the public for landscaping;
- Kerns Improvement District, \$5 million loan for the ongoing relocation of sewer lines

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from backyards to public rights-of-way; and

- Price, \$1.7 million loan to replace failing and antiquated sewer lines.

The Board continues to seek applications to allocate \$4 million for projects that will improve energy efficiency, reduce pollution to the waters of the state and assist with public outreach and water quality education. These funds will be allocated by the Board at its June meeting.

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